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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 10 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration of the participants in the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian States pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, held in Almaty on 15 and 16 January 1998 (see annex I). I also have the honour to transmit the text of the protocol of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the representative of the Aga Khan Development Network, held on 16 January 1998 (see annex II), and the text of the Protocol of accession of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, signed in Tashkent on 4 May 1996 by the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (see annex III).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 104.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

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ANNEX I

Declaration

The delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Aga Khan Development Network and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, participating in the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian States pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, held on 15 and 16 January 1998,

Disturbed by the rise in the illicit production of, traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs, and the related problems of HIV/AIDS, in the Central Asian countries,

Expressing concern at the threat posed by illicit drug-trafficking to the health and well-being of the populations of their countries and its negative impact on the economy, culture, and the moral principles of society,

Realizing that the illicit distribution of narcotic drugs leads to the growth of crime and corruption,

Acknowledging that the situation in Central Asia with regard to illicit drug-trafficking requires close attention, and that no country on its own is capable of solving the drug problem, which calls for active cooperation and coordination at the subregional, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed under the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, which should strengthen national and concerted efforts to control narcotic drugs,

By the present Declaration,

1. Reaffirm the desire of the Central Asian countries to solve the problems posed by the abuse, illicit distribution and production of narcotic drugs in accordance with the United Nations drug control conventions through a balanced and comprehensive approach and in accordance with their social and economic development;

2. Pledge to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination of actions among their countries in the field of drug control within the framework of the Memorandum and the Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme, and to provide the necessary personnel and financial resources at the national level with a view to ensuring the successful implementation of agreed projects and other activities initiated under the Programme;

3. Agree that the Governments of their countries shall, in the near future:

(a) introduce legislation and law-enforcement procedures in accordance with the United Nations drug control conventions;

(b) provide national drug control coordination structures with substantial financial support and personnel, and give such structures the authority to plan and implement drug control programmes with a view to combating illicit production of, traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs;

(c) affirm that, in the preparation of national drug control programmes, adequate attention will be given to the development of preventive measures and the cure and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons;

(d) establish procedures that allow for the exchange, within a specific time-frame, of up-to-date information on illicit drug-trafficking and persons involved in drug-trafficking, between the law-enforcement structures of the countries parties to the Memorandum;

(e) make efforts to develop cooperation and conduct joint operations among their law-enforcement structures in the subregion's most dangerous border areas;

(f) conduct a study of existing legislation and the administrative procedures needed to combat corruption, and reach agreement on the preparation of reviews as necessary;

4. Agree that priority attention must be given to the development of new areas of cooperation within the framework of the Subregional Drug Control Cooperation Programme, with a view to solving two of Central Asia's most important drug control problems: the growth of drug abuse and related HIV/AIDS problems, and the flow of precursors used in the illicit production of narcotic drugs;

5. Affirm their commitment to supporting, at the national and subregional levels, the initiatives of the United Nations Drug Control Programme to develop a programme to assist law-enforcement agencies in the countries that border Afghanistan with a view to halting the flow of precursors and narcotic drugs;

6. Welcome the development, with the support of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, of the first national drug control programme in the Republic of Tajikistan, whose territory is most often used for illicit drug-trafficking;

7. Have agreed that the second review meeting of the countries parties to the Memorandum should evaluate the progress made in implementing the agreements contained in this Declaration;

8. Call upon the international community to provide support with a view to strengthening joint efforts to combat the illegal production, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs in Central Asia.

ANNEX II

Protocol of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the representative of the Aga Khan Development Network

Almaty, 16 January 1998

The participants in the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the representative of the Aga Khan Development Network,

Desiring to broaden and deepen cooperation in the field of drug control, and guided by the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, signed in Tashkent on 4 May 1996,

1. Consider the results of the drug control activities undertaken in Central Asia by the Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to be of fundamental importance;

2. With a view to implementing the provisions of article 2 of the Memorandum, consider it necessary to make proposals to the Governments of the States parties to the Memorandum on the advisability of creating a mechanism for coordinating cooperation among the countries of the region;

3. With a view to studying the current drug situation in the region, evaluating the effectiveness of existing national response mechanisms and creating an effective system of regional cooperation in the field of drug control, have reached agreement on the need to hold in Almaty, in September and October 1998, an international scientific and practical conference on drug-control problems in the Central Asian region. During the conference, they plan to discuss the outcome and decisions of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in June 1998. The holding of such a conference is considered as an opportunity for drafting important regional decisions at the intergovernmental level;

4. With a view to studying the question of creating a regional coordination mechanism and determining the procedure, time-frames and conditions for financing the international scientific and practical conference, the sides consider it expedient to establish a working group composed of representatives of the parties to the Memorandum. The working group should submit its agreed proposals to all parties to the Memorandum prior to 1 May 1998;

5. The parties to the Memorandum should submit, prior to 16 February 1998, the names of their candidates for membership in the working group through the

regional office of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to the National Coordinating Body of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

This Protocol is signed in one copy in the Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

This Protocol shall be deposited with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which shall send a certified copy of the Protocol to all parties to the Memorandum.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the parties, have signed this Protocol.

ANNEX III

Protocol of accession of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, signed in Tashkent on 4 May 1996 by the Governments of the Republics of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Almaty, 16 January 1998

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as "the Governments") and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,

Taking into consideration the provisions of article 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors of 4 May 1996 (hereinafter referred to as "the Memorandum"),

Considering that the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network have expressed their intention to accede to the Memorandum, as well as their agreement that the provisions of the Memorandum shall be binding on them,

Have agreed:

1. To approve the intention of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network to accede to the Memorandum.

The rights and obligations arising from the provisions of the Memorandum shall accordingly be binding on the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network.

2. This Protocol is an integral part of the Memorandum and in future should be referred to as the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Control Illicit Production, Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors, to which the Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network are also parties.

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network, mindful of this Protocol, are pleased to become parties to the Memorandum and affirm their readiness to engage in close cooperation with a view to implementing its objectives.

This Protocol is signed in one copy in the Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

This Protocol shall be deposited with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which shall send a certified copy of the Protocol to all parties to the Memorandum.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorized representatives of the parties, have signed this Protocol.